

I cannot indulge my wish in this respect, I am surrounded with comforts which I never thought to possess again - & am, I hesitate not to say, much happier than mankind in general. It is a painful (& often recurring) thought to me that you should have made your hasty visit to town, when I was from home - I should so have liked that you should have had a peep at my menage & its dear inmates, that you might have told dear Mrs Gray of my happiness - My dear little girl now runs alone, & is a bright & lovely little creature (me judge) & as to the nippers, I shall only say that she is a help meet for me (as well as ^{help} meat) & the two together make life a blessing to me beyond what I could attempt to describe with my sober pen - I fear it will be long before I see you here again! & the one opportunity was lost! However, it may be, & I may even live to see you both together under my roof. I sometimes venture to look forward as I never dared to do - feeling so much stronger & (do not laugh) at times even younger than when in the U.S. I grieve for dear Torrey's loss - it was a very severe one - I wrote him when I heard of his bereavement, but have not heard from him since - I did not see Maggie, during the few days she spent in London, as I had a bill on my check which had to be nursed, seriatim. She is in Switzerland, but I know not for how long - My son & his wife are at Paris, where they spent the winter - He has now a boy, born there - My kindest love to you both

also to dear Torrey & the girls - It just occurs to me to say that I have put C. Gratiana in the St. High Street to which it (artificially) belongs but having no idea of its affluence

8 Upper Bedford place,
Russell Square, London,
27th. March 1856.

My dear Gray,
You know what it is to be busy, few men better, but you do not know what it is to be tied to a counting house, where, even if business is not pressing for the moment, you are yet unable to absent yourself from the spot - Such is my case, & such the reason, & the only one, why you have not heard from me long since on the subject of your Carices - For weeks, nay months past, I have been anxious on the subject, & at last, finding that I could not count upon a day's daylight for the required examination, I wrote to Bratt begging him to undertake the matter, without the least reference to what I had done, & to remodel the arrangement as he saw fit - To this he replied that he was a very slow worker & that even if he had the time to spare, it would take him 6 mos. to arrange the N. Am. Car. as it was usual with him to expunge in the morning what he had written over night. To this he added that he thought my arrangement as good as it could be - & that he certainly "wants not patch my silk with his inferior material" - He, however,

proposed to assist me, & sent me a few Species to be added - From that time to this (5 or 6 weeks ago) altho' I have been in a fidget ever since, I could never take a day's holiday, until yesterday, when I spent the whole day going carefully over my specimens, & hunting up such as I could of the mem^a. which I made at Wpk. in the fond hope that I should make my work more perfect in your 2^d Edⁿ. - But, unfortunately, I have never had time to assort any M^s. since they were bundled together by my son at Wpk. to send home here - Nor have I even Copies of some of the last Carex matter which I printed in Silliman - Especially, I beg you to turn to some Synon^y. &c. in my review of Hartwell's Carices, which was printed when I was leaving N. Y. in Nov^r 1852, I think I may not have recollect^d all I wrote there -

Well - having completed my notes, I sent them on to Boott, who returned them to me this evening with a note which I enclose to you - I think him wrong as to *C. paniculata*, but you have a microscope & botanical eyes, which I no longer possess - & can be umpire between us - I shall be satisfied in either case - Oddly enough, your letter of the 11th reached him, & you observe, on

this very day - I do not wonder that you should have been disappointed at my apparent neglect of your wishes - in so small a matter - but, had not the time been wanting to me, I should have entered on the job, not only as a small (very small) service to you, but as a pleasurable pursuit to myself - The truth is I cannot examine plants by candle-light & I have no day-light at home (during the winter & spring) except on Sundays - I do not leave my Co-house, until 5 - & dine at home at 6 o'clk. Being determined that no further delay shall occur, I have set my dear little wife to copy my notes, & she is now working by my side - that you may get them by tomorrow's mail - You will see by Boott's note that he has been very unwell, which I did not know, but shall try to see him tomorrow evening - He is a dear, good fellow, & has frequently told me that by the time your 3^d Edⁿ. is called for - I shall have leisure to make (with his help) the U. Amⁿ. Carices perfect - I fear not, for tho' I "have all things & abundance", I am in no way of making an independent fortune such as would give me my time to myself - When I think of Botany, & look at the untouched Cabinets in my breakfast-parlour I sometimes suppress a sort of half-sigh at my Yoke, but this is very ungrateful, for, tho'